

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05697 181547 Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8886

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

S E C R E T MOSCOW 5697

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE, UR

SUBJ: LEBANESE REQUEST FOR USG ASSISTANCE

REF: A. STATE 094202; B. BEIRUT 5588; C. BEIRUT 5713

1. WHILE WE GATHER FROM REF C THAT SITUATION HAS EASED SOME WHAT, WE NEVERTHELESS OFFER OUR COMMENTS PER REF A. ACTION CONTEMPLATED IN PARA 5 REFTEL (A) COULD HAVE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON US- SOVIET RELATIONS, COMING DURING THIS SENSITIVE PRE- SUMMIT PERIOD, AND WE THEREFORE BELIEVE WE SHOULD KEEP SOVIETS CLOSELY INFORMED REGARDING OUR READING OF SITUATION AND SHOULD EXPLAIN IN ADVANCE ANY ACTIONS WE MIGHT PLAN. EXPLANATION SHOULD BE IN TERMS OF NEED TO MAINTAIN LEBANESE INTEGRITY AS BEING IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST. WE RECOMMEND THAT ANY APPROACH BE UNDERTAKEN IN MOSCOW AS WELL AS WASHINGTON IN THE INTEREST OF BRINGING THE MATTER RAPIDLY TO THE ATTENTION OF OFFICIALS DIRECTLY

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05697 181547 Z

RESPONSIBLE, WHO WOULD ALSO BE IN BEST POSITION TO GIVE
ACCURATE INDICATION OF SOVIET POSITION.

2. US APPROACH, NO MATTER HOW TIMELY OR REASONED, WILL BE
DIFFICULT FOR SOVIETS TO SWALLOW, AND THEY MAY WELL REMIND US
OF RECENT ASSURANCES GIVEN TO MFA IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL (B)
THAT WE DID NOT WISH TO INTERFERE. WHILE WE CANNOT EXPECT
SOVIETS TO ACCEPT OUR MOVE IN GOOD GRACE, OR TO REFRAIN FROM
ECHOING SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE, EARLY NOTIFICATION CAN
BE POINTED TO AS EVIDENCE OF OUR DESIRE TO MAINTAIN CONTINUING
DIALOGUE ON MIDDLE EAST AND OUR WISH TO AVOID POLARIZATION
OF LEBANESE SITUATION. IN FORMULATING POINTS WE MIGHT MAKE
TO SOVIETS AT THIS TIME WE SUGGEST GENEROUS USE OF BASIC PRINCIPLES
AGREED AT MOSCOW SUMMIT IN ORDER TO UNDERSCORE OUR CONTINUED
ADHERENCE TO WHAT IS SEEN BY SOVIETS AS FOUNDATION OF US- SOVIET
BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

3. SOVIETS, OF COURSE, HAVE ALWAYS INSISTED TO US THAT THEY ARE
ALREADY URGING RESTRAINT AND MODERATION ON THEIR ARAB FRIENDS.
WHILE SUCH ASSERTIONS ARE SELF- SERVING, WE BELIEVE THAT MOSCOW AT
THIS TIME WOULD PREFER AN EASING IN LEBANESE CRISIS. SOVIET
PRESS THUS FAR HAS AVOIDED PROPAGANDISTIC COVERAGE OF ISSUE
AND WHILE SYMPATHETIC TO PALESTINIANS HAS PLAYED UP MOVES BY
PARTIES INVOLVED AIMED AT NORMALIZING SITUATION. DESPITE LEBANESE
ASSESSMENTS OF SOVIET INFLUENCE, WHICH TO US APPEAR SOMEWHAT
OVERSTATED, SOVIET LEVERAGE WITH FEDAYEEN HAS ITS LIMITS AND WE
DO NOT FEEL WE CAN EXPECT MORE MODERATING INFLUENCE FROM SOVIETS
THAN THAT WHICH THEY MAY ALREADY BE EXERCISING.
DUBS

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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TAGS: PINS, LE, UR
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